

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
GENERAL PURPOSE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2753)
California Street
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-N

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: California Street, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York

UTM: 18.622740.4945220
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1956

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Administrative

Significance: During the Cold War, Building No. 2753 provided a large space for associated aircraft maintenance routines, including individual welding, electric, machine, pneudraulic and tire shops.

Project Information: Building No. 2753 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

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Summary Description of General Purpose Aircraft Maintenance Shop (Building No. 2753)

Layout

Building No. 2753 is 58,823 square-foot building that housed an array of aircraft maintenance shops. It is a one-story building with a nearly flat roof. It is rectangular in plan, with small loading dock and vestibule offsets. Fenestration consists of bays of metal factory-style sash windows, most of the glazing to which has been painted beige. Building No. 2753 is built of reinforced concrete block construction originally measuring 250 feet by 163 feet (40,750 square feet). The same year of its construction, a 72-foot by 160-foot addition was added. The building has one or more garage doors on each façade.

Alterations/Additions

Other than the large, 1956 addition on the south end of the building, the General Purpose Aircraft Maintenance Shop has undergone no other major alterations or additions.

Function

The overall design of this building is representative of the Air Force's general maintenance facilities. Building No. 2753, therefore, once provided space for fabrication, aerosystems repair, reclamation activities on damaged aircraft and equipment shops. Additionally, it housed tool cribs, administration, and locker facilities.

Significance

On March 21, 1946, the Strategic Air Command (SAC) was organized as one of the three new major commands in a reorganized Army Air Force. SAC was considered the "big stick" of U.S. National military strength, and was given the responsibility of delivering the atomic weapons. With the motto "peace is our profession" SAC was the physical realization of America's deterrence theory.

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make SAC operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the critical instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations. Among such buildings were general purpose maintenance spaces such as Building No. 2753, which played an important support role in keeping SAC aircraft and weaponry mechanically sound and in a constant state of readiness. For that reason, the General Purpose Aircraft Maintenance Shop was critical to the Plattsburgh AFB and SAC missions.

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Sources

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United States Air Force

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1991 *Peace...is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

United States Air Force

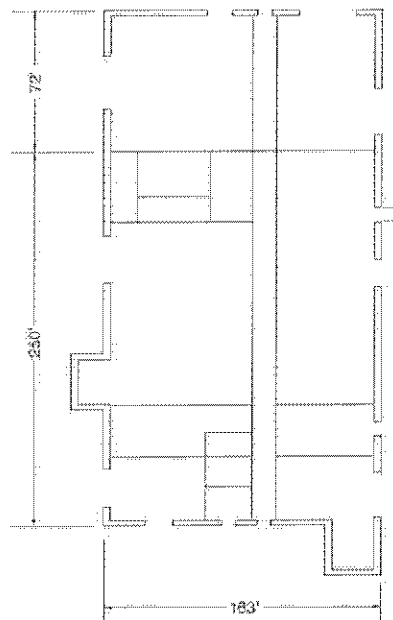
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Sketch not to Scale

SKETCH PLAN—GENERAL PURPOSE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SHOP
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 2753)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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